ENVIRONMENTAL
NEWS

Newsletter of the N.H. Department of Environmental Services July/August 2002

Key water quality and shoreland protection bills become law

Isinglass River designated into state program

Water-related legislation played a prominent role in the 2002 legislative session, with bills involving the protection of drinking water, shorelands, milfoil control and the Isinglass River all being signed into law.

New Hampshire's efforts to control milfoil and other exotic aquatic plants were boosted significantly by the passage of HB 592. This bill increased boat registration fees by $3, with the additional revenue to be used to "prevent milfoil from infesting any more New Hampshire lakes, and fund research on how best to eradicate these non-native weeds," said Governor Shaheen.

SB 440 will enhance water conservation across New Hampshire by authorizing DES to adopt rules that establish best management practices for water conservation for large water users. This was one of a number of initiatives by DES and the Public Utilities Commission to promote water conservation in New Hampshire that came out of a study completed in 2002 at the request of the legislature. Other ongoing activities include greater public education and evaluating possible financial incentives to promote water conservation. The need for improved water conservation became more evident with the stress placed on New Hampshire's water supplies during the recent drought. Based on a survey completed during the study, only 17 percent of New Hampshire's water supplies have active water conservation programs, which is very low relative to other regions of the country.

A second drinking water bill, SB 437, also came out of the DES /PUC study. This in part enables the Governor to expand protections and other measures for water supplies during emergencies at the request of local water boards. It also creates a legislative study committee to further evaluate regional water supply issues

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Governor signs Clean Power Act

Landmark legislation targets four pollutants, including carbon dioxide

Gov. Jeanne Shaheen recently signed into law the New Hampshire Clean Power Act, landmark legislation that makes our state the first in the nation to legislatively require fossil fuel plants to reduce emissions of four pollutants, including carbon dioxide.

"The Clean Power Act is a landmark step for clean air," said the Governor. "New Hampshire is setting the standard for the rest of the nation. This bill makes sense for the health of

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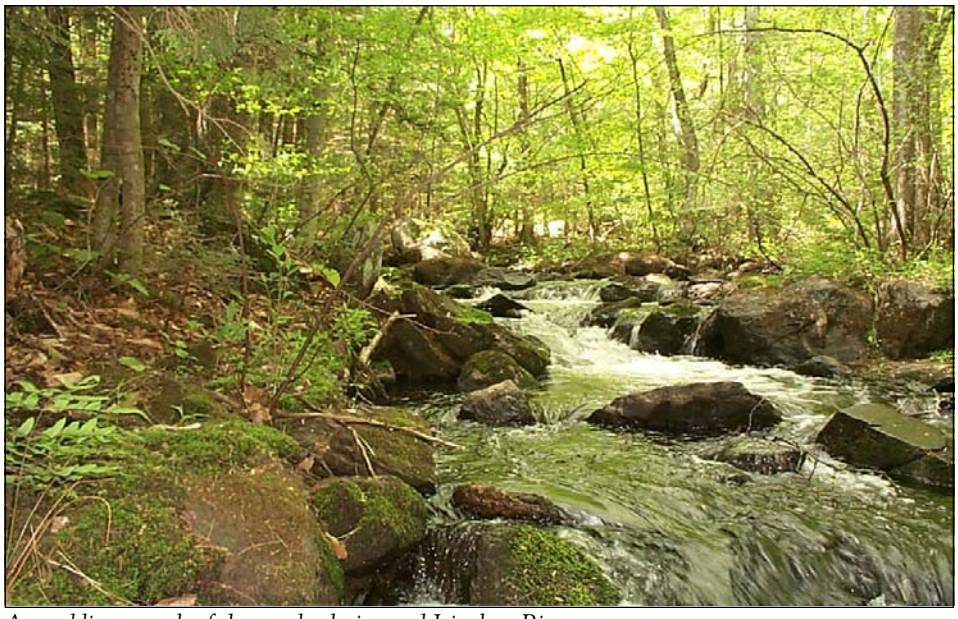

A tumbling stretch of the newly-designated Isinglass River.

State to study the geology around the Lakes Region

Geologic mapping will help in earthquake preparedness

The New Hampshire Geological Survey, a unit of DES, announced that it has been awarded federal funds to conduct geological mapping studies in the fast-growing Lakes Region of New Hampshire. The federal STATEMAP program, which is coordinated through the U.S. Geological Survey, awards state geological surveys with funds to conduct geological mapping studies in areas of the state with the greatest need. Funded proposals from the state geological surveys are selected by a national peer review panel.

The New Hampshire Geological Survey (NHGS) proposed mapping two quadrangles in the Lakes Region, the Lake Winnisquam and the Laconia quads, in part because of the seismic history of the region. "The Lakes Region is the most seismically active area of New Hampshire," stated David Wunsch, State Geologist and Director of the NHGS. "We normally do not experience the large earthquakes that occur on the west coast of the United States, but central New Hampshire is prone to frequent, small-magnitude earthquakes, and occasionally we experience a moderate quake like the one that occurred recently near Plattsburgh, N.Y." Wunsch noted that the thickness and distribution of different types of geological materials can be used to predict where the most damage may occur during a significant seismic event. In addition to evaluating seismic risk, geological maps contain a wealth of information that can be used for exploring for water supplies, natural resource evaluation and protection, and land-use planning.

The geological study being performed by the state will allow geologists to very accurately map the surficial geological materials that overlie the solid bedrock below. "The surficial deposits, such as sand and gravel, were deposited by the glaciers that covered New Hampshire tens of thousands of years ago," explained Wunsch. "The distribution of surficial materials, and in some cases, their thicknesses, will be portrayed on geological maps that will be available to the public, both as paper maps and as digital computer files." He noted that the field work for the maps has already begun and should be completed in mid-October. Finished maps should be available in the spring of 2003.

For more information, please contact Dr. David Wunsch at (603) 271-6482, or by email at dwunsch@des.state.nh.us. ■

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and whether incentives such as eligibility for state-aid grants should be created to encourage and promote regional cooperation among public water supplies.

Three shoreland protection bills, SB 451, 452, and 453, were also adopted. Based on the recommendations of a legislative study committee in 2002, these bills clarify the process for ensuring a vegetative buffer zone near lakes and rivers and also strengthen the state's administrative fine capabilities for violators. "As our population and economy has grown in the past decade," said Gov. Shaheen at the bill signing, "the Shoreland Protection Act has been a crucial tool in protecting New Hampshire's waterways and preserving their natural beauty for the next generation. With this bill, we close a loophole that had weakened the Act."

On May 1st Gov. Shaheen signed House Bill 1402 designating the Isinglass River into the Rivers Management and Protection Program. The river, which flows through the communities of Strafford, Barrington, and Rochester, adds 18 miles to the 760 miles already protected under this program, now with fourteen rivers. Designation helps to recognize those rivers that have valuable statewide natural, cultural, recreational, and economic resources. ■

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Environmental News is a bimonthly publication of the N.H. Department of Environmental Services.

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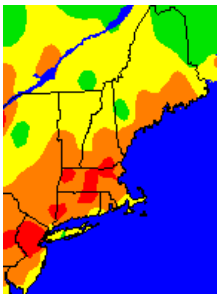
Air quality information available throughout the summer

Hot weather may be good for summertime activities, but it can also bring poor outdoor air quality to New Hampshire. During a typical summer, New Hampshire experiences days when the air is unhealthy due to high concentrations of ground-level ozone, or "smog." Ten such days took place last summer.

Poor air quality is a significant health concern for people who suffer from respiratory diseases such as asthma. Elevated ozone levels can limit a person's ability to take a deep breath, and trigger symptoms such as coughing, throat irritation, and breathing discomfort. Children are also sensitive to the effects of ozone, and even healthy adults engaged in moderate or strenuous outdoor activities can experience the unhealthy effects of ozone.



From May through September, DES provides daily information on expected ozone air quality levels throughout New Hampshire. This information may be obtained by calling the toll free air quality information line at 1-800-935-SMOG, or by visiting the DES website at www.des.state.nh.us/ard/ozone.htm. In addition, animated ozone maps, which show the formation and movement of ground-level ozone across the eastern United States, are available on a daily basis from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at www.epa.gov/airnow.

An "Air Quality Action Day" is declared in parts of New Hampshire when ground-level ozone is forecast to reach unhealthy levels. During these days, people are encouraged to take precautionary measures to protect their health, especially in the afternoon when ozone levels tend to be the highest. In addition, people are encouraged to take actions to reduce emissions of pollutants that contribute to ground-level ozone formation. The air pollutants that cause ground-level ozone come from cars, trucks, buses, power plants and industrial facilities.

People can sign up to be notified whenever an air quality action day has been declared in New Hampshire by calling Jim Black, DES Air Resources Division, at 800-498-6868, or by signing up at the EPA's Smog Alert website www.epa.gov/region01/oms. By signing up, people will automatically be notified by email or fax when unhealthy concentrations of ground-level ozone are predicted in their area.

If you have questions, or would like to receive additional information on ozone and air quality issues, please call DES at 1-800-498-6868. ■

Nashua Superfund site cleanup completed

The Gilson Road Superfund Site in Nashua has now met all of its groundwater cleanup goals, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and DES removed the groundwater treatment equipment and the outdoor storage tanks at the $5.4 million facility constructed in the mid-1980s. The building itself will be retained for storage and field office purposes.

"During the 1970s, over 900,000 gallons of liquid hazardous wastes were illegally disposed into an on-site leach field," said DES Waste Management Director Philip O'Brien. He explained that the violator was brought to justice by the N.H. Attorney General's Office. Much of the hazardous waste seeped into the site soils and contaminated over 100 million gallons of groundwater. To ensure protection of public health and the environment, several actions were taken, including the City of Nashua's extending municipal water lines to the residential area surrounding the site in 1983. Also, with funding from EPA, an impermeable slurry wall was built to surround the contaminated groundwater and to limit off-site migration.

In 1984, construction began on a facility to pump the enclosed groundwater, treat it, and continuously recirculate it until it was rendered safe. From its initial start-up in 1986 until 1996, the facility treated more than one billion gallons of groundwater, removing more than 430,000 pounds of contaminants at a total cost of nearly $30 million.

In 1995, EPA and DES determined that clean-up goals for the site had been achieved, and in January 1996 groundwater treatment ceased. "Rather than decommission the treatment plant then," said O'Brien, "the plant was maintained in a ready state in case groundwater contaminant concentrations rebounded, warranting further groundwater treatment. Fortunately this didn't occur, so decommissioning of the site was possible." O'Brien noted that groundwater monitoring will continue into the future. ■

State adopts tighter arsenic level for drinking water

New standard more protective of public health

A new, tighter regulatory standard for arsenic in drinking water has now been adopted into DES rules. The new state level is 10 parts per billion (ppb), consistent with the federal standard that EPA has decided to adopt. It is also significantly more stringent than the previous state and federal arsenic standard of 50 ppb. This threshold for public water supplies will also serve as an action level for private well owners who wish to evaluate their drinking water. This change was made after consultation with the N.H. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), which reviewed extensive data that underscored the need for the tighter standard.

"The proposal is designed to strengthen our state's safeguards for protecting public and private water supplies and the health of our citizens," said DES Assistant Commissioner Dana Bisbee. He explained that the 10 ppb threshold serves both as an enforceable regulatory level for public water supplies and an action level for private well owners. "This tightening recognizes the improved science associated with arsenic, which shows more of a health concern than previously believed." Bisbee said that a number of risk assessment studies worldwide, cited by both DHHS and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), have shown arsenic to be associated with an increased risk of bladder, lung, kidney, liver, skin, and prostate cancer.

Arsenic is a naturally occurring chemical element found in many parts of the United States, including New Hampshire. It also occurs as a legacy of past human activities such as coal ash disposal and orchard spraying.

DES estimates that approximately 15 percent of the groundwater supplies in New Hampshire have arsenic concentrations that exceed this new state level. Most of these exceedences are in bedrock wells, often referred to as artesian, drilled, or point wells.

This regulatory adoption comes at a time when DES is urging private well owners across the state to periodically test their drinking water for a number of potential contaminants, including arsenic. "Since arsenic, as well as some of the other contaminants, has no taste, odor, or color, only laboratory testing can identify its presence," explained Bisbee. DES recommends that well owners use a certified laboratory. A list of such labs can be obtained by calling DES at (603) 271-2975 or by visiting "Hot Topics: Private Well Testing" on DES's home page at *www.des.state.nh.us*.

If arsenic is found in a water supply, treatment is relatively straightforward. Either a reverse osmosis system or an adsorption system using activated alumina can be used. The cost for a private homeowner to install treatment systems ranges from about $800 for a point-of-use reverse osmosis system to $2,000 for a full-home activated alumina system.

Bisbee said that the new rule requires public water supplies to comply with the 10 ppb standard by January 2006. This allows time for affected public water systems to implement sampling programs, evaluate the various arsenic treatment methods, arrange financing, and either install treatment systems or develop new water supplies." He explained that at 10 ppb, DES estimates that the total cost to all public water systems in New Hampshire will be $6-12 million in capital expenditures and less than $500,000 in annual operation and maintenance costs if the activated alumina treatment method is used. "The costs can be spread over the life of these capital improvements, helping to make this much-needed, long-term investment in the health of New Hampshire residents as affordable as possible. Also, public water suppliers can receive low interest loans from the State Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund."

For further information, please contact DES at 271-3139. Information is also available on fact sheets at *www.des.state.nh.us/wseb.* ■

DES & EPA blankets state with private well testing message

Periodic testing "makes good sense"

Users of private wells should test their water more often, and for a broader range of contaminants than before, according to DES and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The two agencies are now enlisting the help of local health officers to blanket the state with posters and flyers urging homeowners to "Protect Your Family—Test Your Well's Water Quality Today." DES has been distributing the flyers to health officers, asking them to display them in high-traffic locations in their municipalities.

"Over one-third of New Hampshire residents rely on private wells for their drinking water," noted Dana Bisbee,

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WELL TESTING

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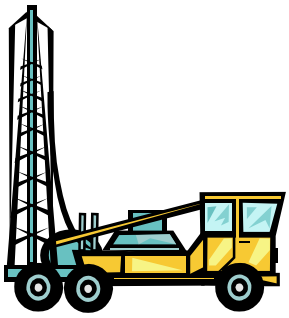
DES Assistant Commissioner. "Unlike public water supplies, which are routinely sampled and analyzed by professional water supply operators, privately owned wells are generally tested only when the owner chooses or when the property is conveyed to a new owner. However, potential health risks can remain unknown if private well owners fail to take the prudent step of having their drinking water analyzed at a certified laboratory."

Groundwater can have high levels of radon and arsenic, for example, two contaminants that can occur naturally, especially here in the Granite State. Wells can also become contaminated with gasoline, solvents, and other chemicals when spills or leaks occur nearby. "Groundwater does not stay in one place," said Harry T. Stewart, Director of the DES Water Division. "It migrates through porous sands and gravels and through cracks in bedrock, carrying any contaminants to nearby wells. In-home treatment systems are available to remove the contaminants, but the first step is testing." Tests for the most common contaminants are fairly inexpensive, and can be performed by private labs or the DES Laboratory.

The flyer, along with broadcast public service announcements, were developed by DES with EPA's support, and are prototypes of private well testing programs in other New England states. Copies of the flyer and more information are available from the DES Water Supply Engineering Bureau at (603) 271-3139. DES's website, www.des.state.nh.us, also provides additional information under "Hot Topics: Private Well Testing." ■

Manchester man pleads guilty to unlicensed well pump installation



The New Hampshire Attorney General's Office, U.S. EPA, and DES announced recently that Roland White entered guilty pleas in the Hillsborough County Superior Court to four criminal complaints charging him with illegally installing well pumps without a license between July and September of 2000.

The New Hampshire Water Well Board licenses water well contractors and pump installers. The Board also regulates the installation of well pumps and the construction of wells. Water well contractors and pump installers are required to conspicuously display their license numbers on both sides of their vehicles along with the terms "Licensed New Hampshire Water Well Contractor" or "Licensed New Hampshire Pump Installer."

As a result of numerous consumer complaints, the Board initially revoked White's license in July of 1987 and, following a brief reinstatement, suspended his license in September of 1988. Neither White nor his company, Statewide Drilling, Inc. (SDI), ever obtained a new license from the Board.

White subsequently relocated to California where he obtained a well drilling license in 1991. Approximately one year later, the State of California suspended his license and ultimately revoked it in 1994.

After White returned to New Hampshire, DES and the Board began receiving new complaints about him installing well pumps in the state. The Attorney General's Office and the EPA's Criminal Investigation Division jointly investigated the matter. At the conclusion of the investigation, the State charged White with four counts of unlicensed pump installation. Each charge is a class A misdemeanor and carries a potential penalty of up to one year in jail and an enhanced fine of up to $5,000.

Due to the recent drought, there has been an increase in the number of wells drilled and pumps installed. People who have questions about whether someone is licensed to do the work and people who have concerns about the work that is being done, should contact the N.H. Water Well Board through Rick Schofield at (603) 271-1974. ■

CLEAN POWER

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New Hampshire's citizens, for our environment, and for our state's future economic success." Gov. Shaheen added, "Cutting nitrogen oxide, sulfur oxide, mercury, and carbon dioxide emissions makes sense."

Carbon dioxide is the principal cause of global warming, and New Hampshire is already feeling its effects in New Hampshire. The state is warming at a rate almost three times the regional average, which threatens our ski industry, fall foliage, maple sugaring and trout fishing—all crucial to our state's economy.

"Acting now to promote clean air is essential to protecting the health of New Hampshire citizens," Gov. Shaheen said. "Every year, 30,000 Americans die prematurely because of the pollution emitted from fossil-fuel burning

Gov. Shaheen signs the Clean Power Act into law with the support of key legislative sponsors.

power plants. More and more children are left gasping for breath and suffering from asthma because of polluted air."

"Cleaning up the air will help remove the haze that sometimes obscures the views of our beautiful mountains, and will help reduce the pollution that poisons our lakes and rivers," said the Governor. "Cleaning up the air makes good economic sense for New Hampshire. People and businesses come to New Hampshire to visit and live and work, because of our beautiful natural environment. Neglect our environment and we neglect our economic future."

The bipartisan legislative sponsors of the Act were Representatives Jeb Bradley, Terie Norelli, Donald White, Naida Kaen, John Thomas, and Senators Clifton Below, Carl Johnson, Sylvia Larsen, and Tom Eaton.

DES's outgoing Air Resources Director Ken Colburn (see page 11) played an important role in crafting the bill and creating a consensus approach among the state, PSNH, and leading environmental groups.

The legislation was supported by a coalition of environmental and public health groups, including the New Hampshire Lung Association, the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, the New Hampshire Lakes Association, and Environmental Voters of New Hampshire.

Under the Clean Power Act, Public Service of New Hampshire, owner of the state's three fossil-fuel power plants—Merrimack Station in Bow, Newington Station in Newington and Schiller Station in Portsmouth—must take steps that result in reductions of emissions of sulfur dioxide, the chief cause of acid rain; nitrogen oxide, which causes ozone smog; carbon dioxide, which contributes to climate change; and ultimately of mercury, which threatens the health of both humans and wildlife.

To meet these targets, the power plants must either install new technology to reduce emissions or purchase expensive emissions credits from other power plants that have already reduced their pollution, or use a combination of the two.

The Clean Power Act includes incentives for the power plants to make their pollution reductions here in New Hampshire or nearby—where New Hampshire citizens will benefit the most from the reduced pollution—by making it more expensive to buy credits from power plants outside the region. In addition, the legislation includes provisions that encourage energy companies to invest in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and conservation, all of which help to reduce energy-related emissions here in New Hampshire.

"The passage of this multi-pollutant reduction bill is attributable to the perseverance and open-mindedness of a number of parties who came to the table to craft a workable blueprint for action," said DES Assistant Commissioner Dana Bisbee. "This legislation will improve the health of the citizens of our state, and it will also serve as a model for how diverse interests can arrive at effective resource management decisions." ■

2002 Governor's Pollution Prevention Award winners announced in Durham

Two New Hampshire companies received the Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention at the Tenth Annual N.H. Pollution Prevention Conference held recently in Durham. This conference brought together experts in pollution prevention, environmental regulations, and environmental management systems to help companies adopt successful pollution prevention strategies.

The winners of this year's award are Erie Scientific Company of Portsmouth and Rockwell Automation of Manchester.

DES Assistant Commissioner Dana Bisbee (left) and DES P2 Manager Sara Johnson (right) congratulate Pamela Bealo of Rockwell Automation and Joel Sadler of Erie Scientific Company, winners of the 2002 Governor's Pollution Prevention Award

Erie Scientific Company, a subsidiary of Apogent Technologies, manufactures microscope slides, DNA plates, and a variety of medical equipment, including waterless hand cleaners. Erie Scientific implemented a number of successful pollution prevention programs over the last several years. In 1996, Erie initiated a water-recycling project that reduced water use by 55 percent, saving 17 million gallons of water per year. In 2001, a mercury swap and purchase policy was conducted that removed and recycled all mercury thermometers in Erie's production and research labs. Erie also donated 400 pounds of microscopic slides to New Hampshire schools through the N.H. Donation Depot, and recently purchased two electric trucks to reduce air emissions.

Rockwell Automation assembles sensing devices, and performs other on-site processes that include surface mount electronic assembly, injection molding, and associated tool and die making. Rockwell implemented an energy conservation program that includes re-lamping the facility with a more energy-efficient lighting system and upgrading the air conditioning units to a Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating. Rockwell also implemented a spool-recycling program, which reduced 17 percent of their total solid waste. In 1997, Rockwell also initiated a waste stream reduction program that now recycles over 173,000 pounds of solid waste per year. In 1999, Rockwell obtained ISO 14001 certification that exemplifies their commitment to conservation and pollution prevention.

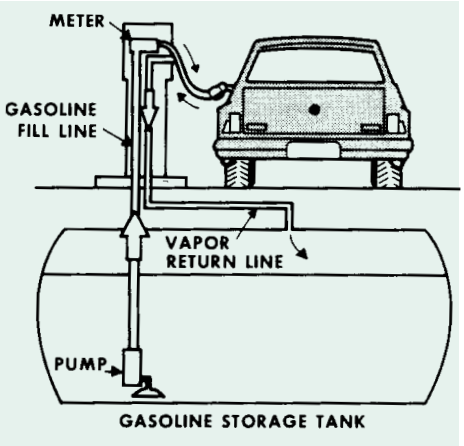
Receiving honorable mention for their pollution prevention efforts were: the Anheuser-Busch Merrimack Brewery, Batesville Manufacturing Company in Nashua, Green Mountain Rifle Barrel Company in Conway, and Millipore Corporation in Jaffrey.

Speakers at this year's Pollution Prevention Conference included Governor Jeanne Shaheen, DES Assistant Commissioner Dana Bisbee, EPA Region I Administrator Robert Varney, and Francis Lunger, President and CEO of Millipore Corporation. The conference also featured a series of workshops and displays focusing on preventing pollution in the workplace.

This year's Pollution Prevention Conference was developed by the N.H. Department of Environmental Services Pollution Prevention Program; University of New Hampshire; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region I; WasteCap Resource Conservation Network; Governor's Office of Energy and Community Services; NH Department of Resources and Economic Development, and the N.H. Small Business Development Center. Sponsoring this year's event were GM Alternative Fuels, GZA Geo Environmental Inc, JMD Industries Inc., Public Service of New Hampshire, and Millipore Corporation. ■

State's gasoline vapor recovery program proving effective

New Hampshire was mandated by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 to implement a program to reduce gasoline vapor emissions at gas stations during tank filling and refueling activities. The program, known as Stage I and Stage II Vapor Recovery, was initiated in 1994 and has been successfully reducing emissions of smog forming chemicals and toxics from gasoline dispensing facilities ever since.



State I Vapor Recovery control measures capture gasoline vapors expelled from underground tanks when being refilled by tank trucks. The captured vapors in the tank truck are returned to the bulk-dispensing terminal where they are either destroyed or recycled. Approximately 1,300 gasoline stations statewide are subject to Stage I requirements because they have a storage tank capacity of 1,100 gallons or more.

Stage II Vapor Recovery control measures capture gasoline vapors during the automobile refueling process. Smog forming chemicals (volatile organic compounds or VOCs) and toxics that would otherwise be emitted to the air from the vehicle gas tank are directed back into the underground storage tank. This program significantly reduces the risk of exposure to toxic gasoline components for gas station attendants and motorists who pump gas. Gasoline stations in the four southern counties of Rockingham, Hillsborough, Strafford, and Merrimack are subject to Stage II requirements if they have a throughput of 420,000 gallons or more per year, or were newly constructed since 1990. As of the end of 2001, over 400 stations in the four-county area are affected by the program, representing approximately 89 percent of the gasoline sold in that area. Depending on the size and site characteristics, cost of Stage II installation can range from $18,000 to $30,000. Yearly maintenance costs vary from $1,000 to $4,000.

The Stage I and Stage II Vapor Recovery Program has been very effective at achieving significant reductions of VOCs, a contributor to ground-level ozone or smog, and toxics at gasoline service stations throughout New Hampshire. DES estimates an 80 percent reduction of VOC emissions from underground tank refilling and vehicle refueling at affected stations since the program began.

Program success and effectiveness depends on thorough and frequent oversight provided by DES through compliance and enforcement activities. To ensure proper operation and compliance at gas stations with Stage II controls, each site is tested every three years by the owner or a third party according to approved vapor recovery testing procedures. DES staff witness each test and issue a Certificate of Compliance, valid for three years, following successful completion of the test. Currently, Stage I facilities pay a onetime certification fee of $75 and Stage II facilities pay a $200 certification fee every three years. This present fee structure will most likely be adjusted within two years to accurately reflect and support the operating costs of the Vapor Recovery Program, which currently has an annual budget of $190,000.

In addition to the required triennial test, DES staff inspect all Stage II facilities at least once a year. DES maintains a vapor recovery enforcement effort for those facilities unwilling to comply with the vapor recovery requirements. These enforcement activities focus primarily on those facilities that have not installed the required Stage II controls, have expired certifications, or have equipment that is failing to be maintained.

On-board refueling vapor recovery (ORVR) is a new vapor recovery control measure being phased-in on newer motor vehicles. This vapor recovery method returns gasoline vapors displaced during refueling back into the vehicle fuel system and is being installed as an integral part of each vehicle over three model years according to the following table. The ORVR program is administered at the federal level, and no state oversight is required.

Phase-In of On-board Refueling Vapor Recovery Systems			
%age of year's fleet required to have ORVR	Cars	Trucks (0-6,000 lbs. gross veh. weight)	Trucks (6,000-10,000 lbs. gross veh. weight)
40%	1998	2001	2004
80%	1999	2002	2005
100%	2000	2003	2006

For more information about the vapor recovery program, contact Jack Glenn at DES's Air Resources Division, (603) 271-6546. ■

EPA presents environmental merit awards to New Hampshire recipients

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently honored several individuals and organizations from New Hampshire for their contributions to the environment.

The New Hampshire winners were among 35 recipients from around New England that received Environmental Merit Awards at a ceremony in Boston. The awards, given out since 1970, honor individuals and groups who have shown particular ingenuity and commitment in their efforts to preserve the region's environment. This year's competition drew more than 90 nominations.

"These individuals, businesses, non-profits and government agencies, often with little fanfare, have invested huge amounts of their time to make New England's environment cleaner and safer for future generations, "said Robert W. Varney, Regional Administrator of EPA's New England office.

The winners from New Hampshire were:

Department of Environmental Services

DES created a dioxin reduction strategy ranking dioxin releases from 22 stationary, mobile, and area source categories, and it made a total of 58 recommendations to eliminate or substantially reduce dioxin in New Hampshire, ranging from regulatory actions to public education. With the recommendations already in place, DES believes that dioxin emissions statewide have already been reduced by almost 30 percent and will be reduced by a total of 50 percent in two years.

Groveton Paper Board

Groveton Paper Board identified an innovative process to reduce emissions that is not only more cost-effective, but also reduces more methanol emissions than is currently required. The alternative has the potential to remove from Groveton's emissions 42 tons of methanol a year and an additional 20 tons of other hazardous air pollutants

Whitney Screw Brownfields Site

The City of Nashua took an aggressive leadership role to tackle the environmental problems and redevelop a community blight at the Whitney Screw Brownfields site by using federal funds to start an environmental investigation. With more federal funds, the city was able to hire a contractor who in turn found funding for cleanup of the site. A developer was able to successfully market the site to businesses.

Piscataqua River Co-op

The Piscataqua River Co-op is a blend of private, local, state and federal organizations created to respond to petroleum spills along the Piscataqua River, which forms the border of Maine and New Hampshire. The Co-op created a local spill management team to respond to oil spills and it has been playing a leadership role in the development of plans to enhance their response capability. The co-op has an inventory of state-of-the-art boats, booms, and skimming equipment and conducts training to address a wide variety of spill scenarios.

The Gulf of Maine Council

In 1989, the New England governors and the premiers of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia created the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, a unique alliance of government agencies working to foster ecosystem conservation and cross-border cooperation. The council's mission is to maintain and enhance the environmental quality of the Gulf of Maine and to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations. The council recently completed "A Year of the Gulf" celebration and developed a five-year action plan that charts a course for improved stewardship of this priceless natural resource.

Representative Jeb E. Bradley

State Representative Jeb E. Bradley of Wolfeboro has a long list of accomplishments when it comes to environmental protection and stewardship. He has served his constituents by addressing far reaching and long-term environmental problems, such as those associated with dioxin, global warming, acid rain, smog and ozone. He also led the effort to drastically reduce mercury emissions coming from waste-to-energy plants in New Hampshire. When the controls are in place, mercury emissions from this industry will be reduced by 96 percent. In addition, he spearheaded recently adopted legislation to reduce the outputs of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and carbon dioxide from these plants.

Herbert Lippold

For 17 years, Herbert Lippold of Atkinson has served as president of the Big Island Pond Corporation in New Hampshire, which today counts 400 members on its roster. The group was established to protect water rights, water quality, and the lake's environment as a whole. He is in regular contact with state officials over wetlands regulations and violations to ensure that environmental laws on the

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Before you barbeque, check that tank!

New national code prohibits refilling LP tanks without overfill devices; proper disposal of tanks critical

Recent changes in the National Fire Protection Association's Liquid Propane Gas Code require an overfilling prevention device (OPD) to be placed on all propane tanks ranging in size from four to 40 pounds. An OPD prevents the tank from filling to a point that could cause an explosion due to expanding gas.

As of April 1 of this year, only tanks with an OPD will be refilled. Due to these changes, all tanks without the new valve will be obsolete and cannot be refilled.

How do you know if your tank has an OPD?

- Tanks purchased in the last year or so should have an OPD and may have "OPD" written on the side of the tank.
- The letters O-P-D will be written on the valve handle.
- OPD valve handles are triangular shaped; non-OPD valves have a star shape.

If you are not sure, take it to a propane dealer for proper identification.

What can you do with your old tank? Propane tanks are under a lot of pressure and contain flammable gas. Be sure that you have used up all of the propane in the tank that you can. Do not attempt to remove the valve, as some ignitable gas invariably remains, even after venting.

Non-compliant tanks should be taken to a local propane dealer, home supply store, or exchange program. Local transfer stations may have a collection program for old tanks, but as with the other suggested locations, call first to get details on whether they accept tanks, costs, and drop-off hours. Do not put propane tanks in your household trash or at the curb for collection.

For more information, visit the DES website at www.des.state.nh.us and click on "Propane Tanks." This link also lists available exchange programs. For further information, contact Marc Morgan, at DES, (603) 271-3712. ■

EPA AWARDS

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lake are being followed. Mr. Lippold has been a true environmental steward.

The New England Chapter of the American Public Works Association

Spurred by EPA penalties against several towns' departments of public works (DPWs), the New England Chapter of the American Public Works Association took action in 2001. The group approached EPA New England to develop a self-audit program for DPWs in New England. DPW garages that performed self-audits, reported environmental violations, and corrected the violations would be given a low priority for inspections. Together with EPA, the Association has developed tip sheets and fact sheets for DPW directors, and held a series of workshops. To date, more than 300 New England DPW garages have signed up for this voluntary program.

Connecticut River Watershed Council

Nearly 50 years ago, the Connecticut River was described as the best landscaped sewer in the nation. Today, the river is largely cleaned up and restored – an environmental jewel to be appreciated and protected. At the center of this turn- around is the Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC). Founded in 1952, the group has worked to promote restoration, conservation, and protection of the river and surrounding watershed. The Council's record of achievement is founded on partnerships – when important issues arise, the Council brings people together to address the challenges. For five decades the Council has worked to resolve environmental challenges on New England's largest river ecosystem.

EPA AWARDS, *continued on next page*

EPA AWARDS

continued from preceeding page

Trust for Public Land

Founded in 1972, the Trust for Public Land has protected more than 1.4 million acres of land across the country, including 100,000 acres in New England. The trust is a non-profit group dedicated to preserving land for people to enjoy as parks and open space. For the trust, 2001 was an extraordinary year in New England with the protection of 26,000 acres and a new 171,000-acre project in northern New Hampshire. As a result of their dedication, thousands of acres of precious wildlife habitat across New England has been conserved and enjoyed by many.

Wheelabrator Technologies

Wheelabrator has taken on the challenge of mercury reduction in New England and nationwide. Recognizing the threat to the environment caused by releases of mercury, Wheelabrator designed a voluntary mercury pollution prevention program. In mercury collection and exchange programs in New Hampshire and Connecticut, the company has collected approximately 165 pounds of mercury from thermometers, thermostats and other equipment for proper disposal. ■

DES air director becomes head of regional air organization

Ken Colburn, who served the State of New Hampshire for the last seven years as director of DES's Air Resources Division, recently left the agency to become executive director of the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management, or NESCAUM in Boston. NESCAUM is a non-profit agency that represents air resource officials throughout New England, New York, and New Jersey.

"I will very much miss working on air quality protection programs at DES," said Colburn, "I especially enjoyed my association with the capable, dedicated, and hardworking staff at the Air Resources Division and throughout DES." Ken added that he is now looking forward to the challenging opportunity of continuing NESCAUM's tradition of promoting clean air programs through policy development, scientific analysis, and public-private partnerships.

In a commendation for Ken, Governor Shaheen praised him "for his dedicated service to protect and enhance public health, our precious natural environment, economic vitality, and overall quality of life in the State of New Hampshire." She also commended Ken for his dynamic leadership, innovative and visionary approach to solving New Hampshire's air quality challenges, and ability to successfully build cooperative relationships among the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

While at DES, Ken promoted a philosophy that the general interests of the economy and the environment are aligned, and he strove to overcome a common misconception that environmental progress and economic prosperity are at odds with each other.

During his tenure, several groundbreaking initiatives were proposed or implemented, including a ban on the sale of mercury thermometers, a plan to reduce dioxin emissions, and a voluntary agreement among the state's marine dealers to sell cleaner, less polluting marine engines, years ahead of federal requirements. Ken was among the first state air directors to legally challenge Midwestern coal-burning power plants to cut emissions, transported into our region by wind, and he was the first state air director to establish a position dedicated solely to studying the local impacts of global climate change. He also pushed federal regulators and Congress to allow New Hampshire to opt out of federal requirements for the gasoline additive MtBE, which reduces air pollution, but can contaminate groundwater.

Most recently, Ken's steadfast efforts resulted in the passage of HB 284, a first-in-the nation bill aimed at cutting four key air pollutants from power plants, including carbon dioxide, the chief cause of global warming.

Assistant Commissioner Dana Bisbee praised Ken's accomplishments. "Ken maintained a vigilant focus on improving air quality here in New Hampshire. His foresight at planning and strategizing, and his ability to forge compromises and cooperative agreements, will be missed at DES. Fortunately, he won't be far away and his on-going involvement in regional, national, and international issues will continue to benefit New Hampshire. We wish him continued success." ■

DES publishes report on malformed frogs

DES recently published a report on the four-year results from its Frog Survey Program. The report, which summarizes the rate, distribution, and characterization of frog malformations found in New Hampshire, was the effort of the Watershed Management Bureau's Biomonitoring Program. Since 1998, hundreds of volunteers have assisted with 92 surveys and examined well over 6,500 frogs.

In addition to providing a brief overview of the malformation issue, amphibian development and ecology, and possible causes of the phenomenon, the report highlights initiatives taken by DES to address this issue. The role of volunteers is also discussed in the report, as the understanding of frog populations in New Hampshire would not have been possible without their tremendous help.

The full report is available for downloading from the DES website at www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/biomonitoring/frogs. ■

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